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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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O 251646Z JUL 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 145900

EXDIS

HANDLE AS SPECAT

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE INFO AMMAN JIDDA TEHRAN ABU DHABI
ADDIS ABABA DHAHRAN KUWAIT LONDON, JUL 25, FROM SANAA
RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T SANAA 1378

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, SA, YE, IR, UAE
SUBJ: EMERGENCY ARMS FOR YEMEN; YEMEN AIR FORCE TRAINING
REF: STATE 143868

DEPARTMENT PASS USCINCEUR, AND SECDEF FOR ISA

DHAHRAN FOR CHUSMTM

1. I PASSED PRICE INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL TO
PRIMIN JULY 21. YARG CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP
STUDYING WHAT TO ORDER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION
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AMMUNITION RECEIVED AND ABOUT TO BE RECEIVED FROM

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JORDAN. THEY SAY THEY WILL BE ANSWERING IN NEXT DAY
OR SO. IN ORDER KEEP CIRCLE OF THOSE AWARE OF
TRANSACTION AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE YARG REQUEST LETTER
OF OFFER BE POUCHED HERE SOONEST.

2. IN A NEW DEVELOPMENT OF CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL
IMPORTANCE IN THE PICTURE OF LONGER TERM MILITARY ASSIST-
ANCE TO YARG, IRANIAN AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED
JULY 24 THAT YARG HAS ASKED HIM ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF
IRAN'S TRAINING YEMENI AIR FORCE PILOTS AND GROUND
CREWS, WITHOUT PUBLICITY, IN IRAN IN F-5S. SPECIFICALLY,
YEMENIS HAVE ASKED WHETHER IRAN COULD BEGIN BY PROVID-
ING IN-
TENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR 50 OFFICERS
AND YTCOS. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SAYS HE HAS INFORMED
YARG THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO DO THIS AND PRO-
VIDE SUBSEQUENT FLIGHT AND GROUND CREW INSTRUCTION
ON HIGHLY DISCREET BASIS. HE IS CURRENTLY AWAITING
LIST OF YEMENIS DESIGNATED FOR TRAINING. THIS TO BE
PROVIDED JULY 30.

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF PRINCE SULTAN'S REMARK TO
AMBASSADOR THACHER (PARA 5 JIDDA 3081) ENDORSING INITIA-;
TION OF F-5 TRAINING FOR YEMENIS AT EARLIEST OPPOR-
TUNITY, AND HIS REFERENCE TO IRAN, IT IS TO BE HOPED
THAT SAG WILL NOT BE IRRITATED WHEN IT DISCOVERS THAT
IRAN IS ABOUT TO TAKE ON THE TRAINING OF SOME YEMENIS.
TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING, WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL
FOR IRANIANS, POSSIBLY IN BOTH TEHRAN AND JIDDA, TO
DISCUSS WITH SAG. WE WILL ENCOURAGE YARG DO SO WITH
SAUDI AMBASSADOR. IN APPROACHING IRAN, INCIDENTALLY,
YEMENIS DO NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUDE A SAUDI ROLE IN
RELATION TO AIR FORCE ALTHOUGH THEY THINK THAT IRAN,
IF WILLING TO HELP, LIKELY BE IN POSITION DO SO MORE
EFFECTIVELY.

4. IF FRICTION CAN BE PREVENTED, IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF YEMEN AIR FORCE WOULD APPEAR, IN FACT, A
USEFUL DEVELOPMENT. WE GATHER IRANIANS ARE VERY
EFFECTIVE INNORAINING, IRAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE A SUR-
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PLUS OF F-5S BEING PHASED OUT, AND YEMENIS SHOULD PROVE
TO BE GOOD PUPILS.

5. WE WOULD WELCOME COMMENT OF EMBASSY TEHRAN ON THIS
MATTER ON BASIS OF
ANY DISCUSSION IT MAY HAVE WITH GOI.
IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE IS WELL-INTENTIONED BUT A
LITTLE FUZZY AND CONFUSED IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH

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YARG. IN VIEW OF EMBASSY TEHRAN, DOES IRANIAN WILL-
NESS ACCEPT 50 STUDENTS FOR PRE-FLIGHT ENGLISH
LANGUAGE COURSE REFLECT READINESS TAKE OVER A SIGNIFICANT
PORTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF
AN F-5-EQUIPPED YAR AIR FORCE? YARG WILL TEND ASSUME
IT DOES.

6. WE ARE AWARE THAT YARG WILL TRY TO KEEP IRANIAN
TRAINING PROGRAM SECRET AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
CRAWFORD

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

SECRET

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